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CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

SPACEX LAUNCHES MISSION TO BRING BACK SUNITA WILLIAMS

Falcon 9 rocket carrying Dragon spacecraft lifted off from Cape Canaveral with NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Gorbunov on board, leaving two seats empty for Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore. The spacecraft will return with all four in February 2025. By then, Williams and Wilmore will have logged over eight months in space | AFP

After Nasrallah, deputy chief dies in Israeli strike

Blow to Hezbollah's command structure as 7th high-profile leader, Qaouk, eliminated

AGENCIES

TWO days after Hezbollah suffered its biggest blow in recent times in the loss of its long-time chief Hassan Nasrallah, another high-profile leader of the Lebanese group was killed in an Israeli air strike on Sunday.

Nabil Qaouk, the deputy head of Hezbollah's Central Council was the seventh senior Hezbollah leader to be killed in Israeli attacks in a little over a week. Hezbollah has confirmed Qaouk's death. He was killed in a targeted strike on Beirut on Sunday.

Qaouk was one of the earliest members of Hezbollah and led the force against Israel in the 2006 war. Since 2020, he was under US sanctions for his involvement in Hezbollah's activities.

"Qaouk was close to Hezbollah's senior commanders and was directly engaged in terrorist attacks against the State of Israel and its citizens," Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a post on X. In the post announcing his death, IDF warned that it will continue to strike and eliminate the Hezbollah commanders.

Sheik Nabil Qaouk

Iran seeks UNSC meet

Iran on Sunday sought a meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Israel's ongoing attacks on Lebanon

Hezbollah also confirmed on Sunday that another senior commander Ali Karaki was among those killed along with Nasrallah in Friday's attack. Among other senior figures killed recently are Nasrallah's right-hand man Fuad Shukr, head of the elite Radwan Force Ibrahim Aqil.

Israel has stepped up its attacks on Lebanon in recent days, carrying out a number of air strikes on targets in southern Lebanon and other parts of the country.

Reports quoting Lebanon's health ministry said 50 people were killed on Sunday in Israeli raids in Baalbek-Hermel. Israel said it hit over 120 Hezbollah targets in the latest attacks. P9

'Would have given Pak more money than IMF...'

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said that India could have given a larger bail-out package to Pakistan than what it is begging from the IMF, had Islamabad maintained friendly relations with New Delhi.

"The money that Pakistan is begging from IMF, our government has spent more money than that in Jammu and Kashmir," Singh said while addressing an election rally in border area of Gurez, close to the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

Rajnath Singh

The IMF recently approved $7 billion to Pakistan under a 37-month loan programme, with $1 billion earmarked for immediate disbursement.

"I am saying to my Pakistani friends, why are you keeping distance from us. You are our neighbouring country. Our beloved leader and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee used to say that you can change the friends but not the neighbours," Singh said.

The defence minister said that whatever money the central government spends in J&K, it is for the region's development and to improve the living standard of people.

"In contrast, Pakistan has been misusing the financial assistance granted to it by other countries. After taking money, Pakistan is running a factory of terrorism," he said.

In a stern warning to Pakistan, the defence minister said: "I want to tell them that if a big terrorist attack takes place in India then we will strike inside Pakistan".

J&K POLLS

CAMPAIGNING ENDS FOR FINAL PHASE

40 seats up for grabs

Voting on: Oct 1

415 no. of candidates

PARTIES IN THE FRAY: BJP, Congress, NC, PDP

MAJOR ISSUES: Statehood, Article 370, Jobs, Power tariff

RESULTS: OCTOBER 4

WON'T DIE TILL MODI IS REMOVED: KHARGE

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, 83, on Sunday fell unwell while addressing a poll rally in Kathua. After receiving medical attention, he said he is fine and won't die till Prime Minister Narendra Modi is removed from power. "I am 83 years, I am not going to die so early. I will stay alive until PM Modi is removed..." he said | P7

EXPRESS READ

Cop, terrorist killed in J&K encounter

Jammu: A terrorist, suspected to be affiliated with the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit, was killed in a remote village in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday. The body of the unidentified terrorist was recovered from the scene of the Saturday evening encounter at Kog-Mandli in Billawar tehsil, taking the death toll in the two-day operation to two. Head Constable Bashir Ahmad laid down his life and two officers were injured | P7

FIR filed against Snehamayi Krishna surfaces amidst his battle with Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

RTI activist **Snehamayi Krishna**, who recently secured a court order to register an FIR against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the MUDA site-allotment case, has found himself in a tight spot as it has come to light that criminal charges have been filed against him for allegedly harassing a woman.

Though the woman, Lavanya, filed a complaint with the Nanjangud police on August 21, 2024, and an FIR too was registered the same day, this news started doing the rounds since Saturday late evening in the light of Krishna's actions against Siddaramaiah.

Lavanya has alleged in her complaint that Krishna, along with other accused, attacked her, pulled her clothes, verbally abused her and issued her death threats, while she was returning home from court on July 18, 2024.

She has mentioned in the complaint that Krishna, along with her mother in-law, brother in-law and father-in-law, has been harassing her over a property dispute. This also involves claims over her husband's death benefits and her jewellery, which is currently under litigation. P4

Safety harness must for kids on bikes, violators to be fined soon

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

THOUGH riders have to mandatorily wear a safety harness if they are taking children who are aged nine months to four years on two-wheelers, the majority of motorists are not aware of the rule. To make people fall in line, the state transport department said it will soon start slapping fines of Rs 1,000 on those violating the rule.

Venkatesh M, a private company employee, who is a father of two children – both aged below four years, said, "We are not aware that such a rule exists. First, the transport department should create enough awareness about the importance of safety harnesses and also about the mandatory rule. Without creating awareness and giving motorists sufficient time, it is not fair to enforce the rule and levy hefty fines."

The rule mentions that the safety harness should be certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards and must have adjustable straps that can be altered to the size and weight of the child (up to 30 kg).

Additional Commissioner of Transport (Enforcement) Mallikarjun C told TNIE that the transport department will start enforcing the rule soon. "We have been creating awareness. Those riding with children have to use the harness to prevent kids from falling off the two-wheeler," he added. P2

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